

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-18, 20-22 and 25-53 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 1, 38 and 50 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 23 and 24 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1 and 38 are amended herein to incorporate the features of cancelled Claims 3 and 23. Claim 4 is amended to clarify its subject matter in view of the amendment of Claim 1 and the cancellation of Claim 2. Claim 25 is amended herein to depend only from pending claims. New Claims 50-53 are added. Support for the amendments of Claims 1 and 38 can be found in the specification at least in the Examples, especially at page 83, lines 10-17. Support for new Claim 50 can be found in the specification at least at page 63, lines 9-11, and support for new Claims 51-53 can be found in the Examples, especially at page 82. It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 38 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,254 B2, the parent of the present divisional application. Applicants expect to file a terminal disclaimer with respect to this patent after receiving an indication of otherwise allowable subject matter, and respectfully request that this rejection be held in abeyance.

Claims 1-18 and 20-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Nagashima, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,676,734). Claims 38-49 also were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Nagashima, et al.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

Before addressing the merits of the rejections, Applicants believe it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention, as recited in amended Claim 1, relates to a recording method comprising a step of providing an ink from a recording head to a recording medium through a gap provided between the recording head

and the recording medium. The ink is supplied to the recording head from an ink tank comprising an ink contact member. The ink contacts the ink contact member. The ink comprises:

- (i) a fluorescent coloring material;
- (ii) a nonionic surfactant;
- (iii) a compound which is not compatible with (ii); and
- (iv) a liquid medium for dissolving or dispersing (i), (ii) and (iii).

The ink contact member is an ink-holding member made of polypropylene. Independent Claim 38 relates to an ink cartridge comprising an aqueous ink of comparable scope, and an ink contact member, wherein the ink contact member is an ink-holding member made of polypropylene.

Independent Claim 50 relates to an ink tank comprising an aqueous ink of comparable scope, an ink container and an ink-holding member. The ink-holding member comprises polypropylene.

In Applicants' view, Nagashima et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

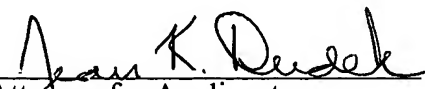
In the Examples of the present invention, a polypropylene ink-holding member is used, and in the Comparative Examples, a polyurethane ink-holding member is used. (See page 83, lines 10-17 of the specification.) The comparison shows the advantage of the use of a polypropylene ink-holding member in the present invention. (See Table 2 at page 87.) In contrast, Nagashima et al. '734 discloses the broad category of polyolefin as one of the materials for the ink-holding member, but not polypropylene specifically. Moreover, in Nagashima et al. '734, polyolefin is merely recited as one item in a list including polyurethane, cellulose, polyvinyl acetate and a polymer formed by a condensation or polymerization reaction of organic compound(s). It is submitted that this broad description does not teach or suggest the polypropylene ink-holding member feature of the present invention.

Applicants conclude that the cited reference does not teach or suggest all the features of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 38 and 50, and that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 38 and 50. The dependent

claims are allowable for the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims, and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejections are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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